Wit and Mirth,

Chargeably collected out of Tauernes, Ordinaries, Innes, Bowling Greenes, and Allyes, Alehouſes, Tobacco ſhops, Highwayes, and Water-paſſages.

Made vp, and faſhioned into *Clinches, Bulls, Quirkes, Yerkes, Quips, and Ierkes.*

Apothegmatically bundled vp and garbled at the requeſt of old *John Garrets* Ghoſt.

By *John Taylor*, Water-Poet.

Printed at *London*, by *T.C.* for *Iames Boler*, and are to be ſold at the ſigne of the *Mary-gold* in Pauls Church yard.
1629.

TO THE TRVLY

Loyall hearted, learned, well-accompliſhed Gentleman, Mr. *Archibald Rankin.*

SIR,

BEeing inioyned by the Ghoſt or *Genius* of old *Iohn Garret*, (a man well knowne and beloued) to collect gleane, or gather, a bundle or truſſe of Mirth, and for his ſake to beſtrow the ſtage of the melancholly world with it; and withall to preſent it to ſome one generous ſpirit, who was old *Iohns* friend; I thought vpon many to whom I might haue made my Dedication, who were both Royall, Honorable, Worſhipfull, and all well-affected towards him: As to mention one

for all, that Iewell of the world, an richeſt Iem of her ſex, that Magazin of the two ineſtimable Iewels, *Pati ence* and *Fortitude*; to that Illuſtriou peereleſſe Princeſſe I might haue re commended it, to whoſe ſeruice, an for whoſe happineſſe, his life and be endeauours, with his prayers and im plorations at his death, were vnfaine ly conſecrated. But my manners co ceiuing the ſubiect of this booke, altogether too triuiall a nature to be ſheltred vnder the ſhaddow of th winges of tranſcendent and admire Maieſty; I ſtept ſo many ſteps dow the ſtaires with my inuention, whe by good fortune I met with yo whom I knew did loue that old hon mirrour of mirth, deceaſed; & who the world better knowes, are a true d uoted friend to honeſt harmele mirth; and laudable recreation.

I therefore entreat you, that (wh your more ſerious affaires will perm

y

you would beſtow the looking vpon
theſe my poore and beggerly ward-
obe of witty Ieſts, whom I dare not
all *Apothegmes.*

And becauſe I had many of them
by relation and heare-ſay, I am in
doubt that ſome of them may bee in
print in ſome other Authors, which I
do aſſure you is more then I do know;
which if it be ſo, I pray you but to
conniue or tollerate, and let the Au-
thors make twice as bold with mee at
any time.

Thus wiſhing euery one to mende
one, whereby the rent and torne gar-
ments of Thred-bare Time may bee
well and merrily patched and repai-
red, crauing your pardon, with my beſt
wiſhes, I remaine

Yours euer in the
beſt of my beſt
ſtudies hereof,

IOHN TAYLOR.

IOHN GARRETS GHOST.

THE doores and windowes
of the Heauens were barr'd,
And Nights blacke Curtaine,
like an Ebon Robe,
From Earth did all Celeſtiall light diſcard,
And in ſad darkneſſe clad the ample Globe;
Dead midnight came, the Cats'gan catterwaule,
The time when Ghoſts and Goblins walke about;
Bats flye, Owles ſhrick, & diſmall Dogs do bawle,
Whiles conſcience cleare ſecurely ſleepes it out.
At ſuch a time I ſleeping in my bed,
A viſion ſtrange appear'd vnto my ſight,
Amazement all my ſenſes ouer ſpread,
And fill'd me full with terrour and affright.
A merry graue aſpect me thought he had,
And one he ſeem'd that I had often ſeene:
Yet was he in ſuch vncouth ſhape y clad,
That what he was I could not wiſtly weene.
His cloake was Sacke, but not the Sacke of *Spaine*,
Canara, Mallago, or ſprightfull Shery,
But made of Sack-cloth, ſuch as beares the graine,

Good ſalt,& coles,which makes the Porters weary
Lac'd round about with platted wheaten ſtraw,
For which he nothing to the ſilkeman owed:
A wearing neuer mention'd in the Law,
And yet farre off,like good gold lace it ſhow'd.
Lin'd was his mantle with good Eſſex pluſh,
Pyde Calues skins,or Veale ſattin, which you will:
It neuer was worne thredbare with a bruſh,
I (naturally) ſau'd the labour ſtill.
A hat like *Grantham* ſteeple,for the crowne
Or Piramide was large in altitude:
With frugall brim,whereby he ſtill was knowne
From other men amongſt the multitude,
A Princes ſhooe,he for a iewell wore,
Two ribbounds,and a feather in his beauer,
Which ſhape me thought I oft had ſeene before,
Yet out of knowledge were, as't had bin neuer.
He in his hand a flaming torch did hold,
(And as he neerer did approach to me)
My hayre'gan ſtand on end,feare ſtrucke me cold,
Feare not I am I*ohn Garrets* ghoſt,quoth he.
I come to rowze thy dull and lazy Muſe
From idleneſſe,from Lethe's hatefull lake:
And therefore ſtand vpon no vaine excuſe,
But riſe,and to thy tooles thy ſelfe betake.
Remember me,although my carkaſſe rot,
Write of me,to me,call me Foole or Ieſter,
But yet I pray thee (*Taylor*) ranke me not,

Among

ong thoſe knaues that doe the world bepeſter,
u wrot'ſt of Great *Otoole* and *Coriat*,
raue *Sir Thomas Parſons*, Knight o'th Sun,
Archy hath thy verſe to glory at,
yet for me thou nought haſt euer done.
ite that in *Ireland*, I in *Mars* his trayne,
g time did vnder noble *Norris* ſeruc:
ere (as I could) I ſtood gainſt Pope and *Spaine*,
ilſt ſome were ſlain, & ſome wth want did ſtarue
ere ſhot, & woundes, & knocks, I gaue & took,
ill at laſt halfe maimed as I was,
an decrepit, I thoſe warres forſooke
(with my *Paſſe*) did to my Country paſſe.
ere getting health, I then ſhooke hands with
to the Court I often made reſort. (death
ere *Englands* mighty Queene *Elizabeth*
w'd me entertainement for diſport.
n by the foretop did I take old time:
n were not halfe ſo many fooles as now,
n was my harueſt, and my onely prime,
purſe receiuing what my wit did plow.
n in ſuch compaſſe I my ieſts would hold,
t though I gaue a man a gird or twaine:
his reuenge would be to giue me gold,
th commendations of my nimble braine.
s liu'd I till that gracious Queene deceaſt,
o was ſucceeded by a famous King:
hoſe bleſt Sons reigne (I with yeares oppreſt)

Me

Me to my graue, ſickneſſe and death did bring
And now (kind *Iacke*) thou ſeeſt my ayrie forn
Hath ſhaken off her layle of fleſh and bone,
Whilſt they remaine the feaſt of many a worm
My better part doth viſit thee alone.
And as betweene vs ſtill, our good requeſts,
Thou neuer me, I neuer thee denyd:
So for my ſake collect ſome merry Ieſts,
Whereby ſad time may be with mirth ſupply'd.
And when tis written finde ſome good man fo
One (as thou thinkſt) was when I liu'd my fri
And though thy lines may be but little worth,
Yet vnto him my duty recommend,
So fare well *Iacke*, dame *Luna*'gins to riſe,
The twinkling ſtars begin to borrow light:
Remember this my ſuit I thee aduiſe,
And ſo once more good honeſt *Iacke* goodnigh
With that more ſwifter then a ſhaft from bow,
He cut and curried through the empty ayre,
Whilſt I amaz'd with feare, as cold as ſnow,
Straight felt my ſpirits quickly to repaire.
And though I found it but a dreame indeed,
Yet for his ſake of whom I dreamed then,
I left my bed, and cloath'd my ſelfe with ſpeed,
And preſently betooke me to my pen:
Cleare was the morne, and Phœbus lent me lig
And (as it followeth) I began to write.

Wit and Mirth.

(1)

My selfe caried an olde fellow by water, that had wealth enough to be Deputy of the Ward, and wit sufficient for a Scauenger; the water being somewhat rough, he was afraid, and (in stead of saying his prayers,) he threatned me, that if I did drowne him, he would see me hanged for it; I desired him to bee quiet and feare nothing, and so in little space I landed him at the Bares Colledge on the Bankside, (alias Paris Garden,) Well (said he) I am glad I am off the water, for if the Boat had miscaried, I could haue swum no more then a Goose.

(2) An

(2)

AN old Painter (at the repayring of a Church) was writing ſentences of Scripture vpon the walles, by chance a friend of mine came into the Church, and reading them perceiued much falſe Engliſh: old man, ſaid my friend, why doe you not write true Engliſh? Alas Sir, quoth the Painter, they are poore ſimple people in this Pariſh, and they will not go to the coſt of it.

(3)

TWo men being ſate at a Table, one againſt the other, the one of them hauing a cup in his hand, dranke to the other, ſaying, Here Oppoſite I will drinke to you: Oppoſite, ſaid the other (being angry) what is that, I would not haue thee put any of thy nicknames vpon mee, for thou ſhalt wel know that I am no more oppoſite then thy ſelfe, or the skinne betweene thy browes.

(4)

A Wealthy Monſieur in France, hauing profound reuenues, and ſhal-

low

low braine) was told by his man that hee did continually gape in his sleepe: at which he was angry with his man, saying, hee would not beleeue it: his man verified it to bee true, his master said that he would neuer beleeue any that told him so, except quoth he, I chance to see it with mine owne eyes: and therefore I will haue a great Looking-glasse hanged at my beds feete for the purpose, to try whether thou art a lying knaue or not.

(5)

The said Monsieur commanded his man to buy him a gray hat, with a button on the brim to button it vp behinde: his man bought him one, & brought him, he put it on his head with the button before, which when hee looked in the glasse and saw, he was very angry saying, thou crosse vntoward knaue, did I not bid thee buy a hat with the button to hold it vp behinde, and thou hast brought me one that turnes vp before: I command thee once more goe thy wayes, and buy mee such a one as I would haue, whatsoeuer it cost me.

(6) The

(6)

THe same Gallant as he trauelled, would haue a Goose to his Supper, which when she was roasted and brought to the Table, he said she stunke: not so, I hope, said the Hoste, it cannot be, for I am sure she was aliue since you came into the house: That may be quoth the Monsieur, but then I am sure that you kild her when she was shiting, she would neuer stinke so else.

(7)

A Mercëding tall Gentlewoman was riding behind a very short little man, so that the mans head reached no higher then his brest, which the afore-said Monsieur perceiuing, said, Madam you will ride a great deale better, if you put your legge ouer that same pummell of your saddle.

Another time he chanced to mæte a Lady of his acquaintance, and asked her how she did, and how her good Husband fared; at which word she wept, saying that her husband was in heauen; in heauen, quoth he, it is the first time that I heard of it, and I am sorry for it with all my heart.

(8) Once

(8)

ONce the said Monsieur saw a fellow that had a Jack Daw to sell: Sirrah quoth he, what wilt thou take for thy daw? Monsieur (said the fellow) the price of my Daw is two French Crowne. Wherefore (said the other) dost thou aske so much for him? the fellow replyed, that the Daw could speake French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, and Latine; all which tongues hee will speake after he is a little acquainted in your Lordships house: Well quoth hee, bring thy Daw in, and there is thy money. In conclusion, Jack Daw (after a moneth or five weekes time) neuer spake otherwise then his fathers speech Kaw Kaw: whereat the Monsieur said, that the knaue had cozened him of his money; but it is no matter, there is no great losse in it: for quoth he, though my Daw do not speake, yet I am in good hope that he thinkes the more.

(9)

ANother time he commanded his man to buy some sweete thing to burne in his Chamber, for (quoth he) my Chamber stinkes most odoriferously. His man brought Frankincense in a paper, and as he

hee was going for fire, his master tasted of it, and finding it sticke in his teeth, and relish very bitter, he called his man cozening knave, that would bring him such bitter trash for his money; and straightwayes commanded him to buy a pound of the best sugar, and burne it straight to sweeten and perfume his Chamber.

(10)

THis Gallant in his youth was much addicted to dicing, and many times when hee had lost all his money, then hee would pawne his cloake, and so goe home without either cloake or coyne, which grieued the Lady his mother very much: for remedy whereof, she caused all his doublets (of what stuffe soeuer) to bee made with canuasse painted backes, whereon was fashioned 2 soles, which caused the gentleman euer after to keepe his cloake on his backe, for feare two of the three should bee discouered.

(11)

WIll Backstead the Player cast his Chamber-lye out of his window in the night, which chanced to light vpon the

the heads of the watch passing by; who angerly said, who is that offers vs this abuse? Why, quoth Will, who is there? Who is here, said one of the pickled watchmen, we are the Watch. The Watch, quoth William, why my friends you know, Harme watch, harme catch.

(12)

A Cardinall of Rome had a goodly faire house new built, but the broken bricks, tiles, sand, lime, stones, and such rubbish as are commonly the remnants of such buildings lay confusedly in heaps and scattered here and there: The Cardinall demanded of his Surueyor wherefore the rubbish was not conueyed away: The Surueyor said, that he purposed to hyre an hundred carts for the purpose. The Cardinall replyed, that the charge of Carts might be saued, for a pit might be digged in the ground and bury it. My Lord, sayd the Surueyor, I pray you what shall we doe with the earth which we digge out of the said pit; Why you horsefen Torcomb, said the Cardinall, canst thou not dig the pit deepe enough, and bury all together.

(13)

A Poore Country man praying deuoutly Superstitious before an olde Image of S. Loy, the Image suddenly fell downe vpon the poore man, and bruised his bones sorely, that he could not stirre abroad in a moneth after; in which space the cheating Priests had set vp a new Image: the country man came to the Church againe, and knéeled a farre off, to the new Image, saying. Although thou smilest and lookest faire vpon me, yet thy father plaid me such a knauish pranke lately, that Ile beware how I come too neere thee, least thou shouldest haue any of thy Fathers vnhappy qualities.

(14)

A Lady hauing beene ten yeares in suit of Law, had a triall at last, where the iudgement went on her side, whereupon she would presently expresse her ioy by inuiting some of her nexest tenants & neighbours to supper; amongst whom was a plaine downe-right country Yeoman, to whom the Lady sayd, Tenant I thinke I haue tickled my aduersary now, though it were long first. I trow hée will make no brags

brags of his medling with me. The honest Yeoman replyed, Truely Madam I did euer thinke what it would come to at last, for I knew when he first medled with your Ladyship, that he had a wrong Sow by the eare.

(15)

One asked a fellow what the Westminster Hall was like; Marry quoth the other, it is like a Butlers Box at Christmas amongst gamesters, for whosoeuer loseth, the Box will be sure to bee a winner.

(16)

A Proper Gentlewoman went to speake with a rich Vizer that had more gowt then good manners, at her taking leaue hee requested her to tast a cup of Canara: She (contrary to his expectation) tooke him at his word, and thanked him. Hee commanded Ieffrey Starueling his man to wash a glasse, and fill it to the Gentlewoman. Honest Ieffery filde a great glasse about the bignesse of two Taylors thimbles, and gaue it to his master, who kist it to saue cost, and gaue it to the Gentlewoman, saying that it was good Canara of fiue yeares old at

the leaſt, to whome ſhee anſwered, (ſeeing the quantity ſo ſmall) ſir, as you requeſted me, I haue taſted your wine, but I wonder that it ſhould be ſo little, being of ſuch a great age.

(17)

A Soulider vpon his march found a horſe ſhoe, and ſtucke it at his girdle, where paſſing through a wood, ſome of the enemy lay in ambuſh, and one of them diſcharged his muſket, and the ſhot by fortune light againſt the fellowes horſe ſhoe. Aha qd, he, I perceiue that litle armor will ſerue a mans turne, if it be put on in the right place.

(18)

One being in a Chamber w̄ his friend, loking out at the window, he ſaw one riding on a horſe in the ſtréet, ſaid he, do you ſée that horſe; yea, qd. the other: then ſaid he, you may ſweare you haue ſéene the beſt horſ in England. how do you know that ſaid the other? I know it well, ſaid he, for it is my horſe, and I am ſure that he is the beſt, and yet I dare ſweare that I haue one in my ſtable worth ten of him.

(19 An

(19)

AN vnhappy boy that kept his fathers Shæpe in the country, did vse to carry a payre of Cards in his pocket, and meeting with boyes as good as himselfe, would fall to Cards at the Cambrian game of Whip-her-ginny, or English one and thirtie; at which sport he would some dayes lose a shæpe or two: for which if his father corrected him, hee (in reuenge) would driue the shæpe home at night ouer a narrow bridge, where some of them falling beside the bridge, were drowned in the swift brooke. The old man being wearied with his vngracious dealing, complained to a Iustice, thinking to affright him from doing any more the like. In briefe, before the Iustice the youth was brought, where (vsing small reuerence, and lesse manners, the Iustice said to him, Sirrah, you are a notable villaine, you play at Cards, and lose your fathers shæpe at one and thirty, The boy replyed, that it was a lye. A lye, quoth the Iustice, you saucy knaue, dost thou giue me the lie? No, qd. the boy I gaue not you the lye, but you told me the lye, for I neuer lost Shæpe at one and thirty, or

when my game was one and thirty I allwayes wone. Indéede, said the Justice, thou saist true, but I haue another accusation against thée, which is, that you driue your Fathers shéepe ouer a narrow bridge, where some of them are oftentimes drowned: That is a lye too, quoth the boy, for those that goe ouer the bridge are well enough, it is onely those that fall beside: which are drowned: Whereto the Justice said to the boyes father, Old man, thou hast brought in false accusations against thy sonne, for he neuer lost shéepe at one and thirty, nor were there euer any drowned that went ouer the bridge.

(20)

A Quiblet.

A Captaine passing through a roome where a Woman was driuing a buck of clothes, but hée thinking shée had béene brewing, saw a dish, and dipped some small quantity of the Lye, which he supposing to bée mault-wort, drunke vp, and presently began to sweare, spit, spatter and spaule: the woman asked him what hée ayled, hée told her, and called her some scuruy names, saying

saying, he had swallowed Lye. Nay then I cannot blam you to be angry, for you being a Souldier and a Captaine, it must nods trouble your stomake to swallow the Lye.

(21)

A Country fellow, that had not walked much in streets that were paued, came to London, where a dog came suddenly out of a house and furiously ran at him: the fellow stoped to take vp a stone to cast at the Dogge, and finding them all fast rammed or paued in the ground; quoth hee, what strange Country am I in, where the people tye vp the stones, and let the dogs lose.

(22)

AN honest Mayor of a Towne, being all Mercy and no Justice, louing ease and quietnesse, and vnwilling to commit any offence or offender, one said of him that hee was like the herbe Iohn in a posiage pot, for that herbe dis not giue any taste at all either good or bad, but an excellent colour: so the Mayor did neither good nor harme, but (as an image of a Mayors authority) filled vp the rome.

(23)

A Iuſtice of the Peace, being angry with a pilfering Knaue ſaid, Sirrah, if thou doſt not mend thy manners, thou wilt be ſhortly hanged, or elſe I will bee hanged for thee. The bold knaue replyed, I thanke your Worſhip for that kind offer, and I beſeech your Worſhip not to be out of the way when I ſhall haue occaſion to vſe you.

(24)

CErtaine Iuſtices of the Peace being informed of the odious abuſes daily committed, by drunkenneſſe in there Iuriſdictions, did according to their places and duties, met at a market towne, and ſate two dayes hearing informations: and working reformations: at laſt they concluded that the Ale and Beere were to ſtrong, and therefore commanded that from thence forth ſmaller drinke ſhould bee brewed, where by theſe vnruly people might ſometimes goe to bed ſober. But one mad toſpot fellow being much grieued at this order, hauing made himſelfe half pot-ſhaken,

with-

without feare or wit came to the Justices, and asked them if they had sate two dayes about the brewing of small drink: to whom one of the Justices replyed, yes: Why then quoth the drunkard, I pray you sit three dayes more to know who shall drinke it, for I will none of it.

(25)

THere was a Scottish Gentleman that had sore eyes, who was counselled by his Physitians to forbeare drinking of wine: but hee said hee neither could nor would forbeare it, maintaining it for the lesser euill, to shut vp the windowes of his body, then to suffer the house to fall downe, through want of reparations.

(26)

VPon the death of Quéene Elizabeth, there was a Mayor of a Country Towne sitting in consulation with his Brethren: to whom hee gravely said, My Brethen and Neighbours, I dos heare that the Quæne is dead, wherefore I thought it exceeding fit we should

despaire

deſpaire to this place, that being diſſembled together, we might conſult of our eſtates for I doubt mée wee ſhall haue another Queene or a King, and I ſtand in great feare that the people will be vnrude, ſo that wée ſhall bée in danger of ſtrange Reſurrection.

(27)

ANother Mayor that was on hunting (by chance) one asked him how hee liked the Cry: a pox take the Doggs, ſaith he, they make ſuch a bawline that I cannot heare the Cry.

(28)

AN old Iuſtice was faſt aſléepe on the Bench when a poore Malefactor was iudged to bée hanged: at which word, the Iuſtice ſuddenly awaked, and ſaid to the Théefe, My friend, I pray let this bee a warning to you, looke you doe ſo no more for wee doe not ſhow euery man the like fauour.

(29) A

(29)

A old Recorder of a City in this Land was busie with a Country Mayor, in e meane space they were interrupted by fellow that was brought before him for lling of a man: my Lord asked the fel-wes name, who answered, his name was ilman. Said my Lord, take away G, and y name is Ilman put K to it, thy name is ilman. and put Sp and thy name is Spil-an, thou art halfe hang'd already (as the oner be sayes:) for thou hast an ill name, a man bary it how he can.

The Mayor all this while stood by mu-ng at my Lords canuasing ỹ mans name, nd afterward being at home among his wne good people, hee had an offender ought before him for getting a Wench ith child: Master Mayor asked him his ame: the fellow said, if it please your orship my name is Iohnson. Then Ma-er Mayor (striuing to Imitate my Lord) id, take away G and thy name is Ilman, ut K to it, it is Kilman, put Sp to it, and y name is Spilman, thou art a knaue, ou hast an ill name, and thou shalt bee anged, &c.

(30)

A Quiblet.

MAſter Field the Player riding Fleetſtreet, a great pace, a Gentman called him, and aſked him what pwas played that day: he (being angry toſtayd vpon ſo friuolous a demande) aſkred, that he might ſee what play was toplayd vpon euery Poſte, I cry you mee(ſaid the Gentleman) I take you foPoſte, you road ſo faſt

(31)

ONe being long vexed with the ſpof iealouſie, came ſuddenly in to houſe, and found a man (whom he ſuſpted) ſome what too buſie with his wife;whom he ſaid, Now good fellow I thanthee, for thou haſt cured mee of a ſtranhellish torment; my ſuſpition is clearand apparent knowledge hath giuen mſuch eaſe of heart, that I will be iealous more.

(32)

ASkilfull Painter was requeſted paint out a faire Courtezan (in plaiEngliſh a Whore) I pray you ſpare thcoſt, ſaid the Painter, for if ſhee bee a rigwhore ſhe daily paints her ſelfe.

(33

Signeour Valdrino (pay-maſter to the Campe of Alphonſus King of Aragon) man erquiſite in courtſhip and complement; as two or three were at ſtrife laying wagers what Countryman he was, a lunt bolo Captaine asked what was the matter: why Captaine, ſaid one, wee are laying a wager what Countryman my L. Treaſurer Valdrino is: Oh ſaid the Captaine, I can tell you that, I am ſure he was borne in the land of Promiſe, for I haue ſerued the King in his wars theſe ſeuen yeares without pay, and euer when I petition to my Lord, he payes me with no coine but promiſes, which makes mee halfe aſſured that he is that countryman.

(34

A Nobleman of France, as he was riding) met with a yeoman of the country, to whom he ſaid, My friend I ſhould know thee, I doe remember I haue often ſeene thee: My good Lord, ſaid the Countryman, I am one of your Honors poore ſeruants, and my name is T. L. I remember thee better now (ſaid my Lord) there were brothers of you, but one is dead, I pray which of you doth remaine aliue?

(35) The

(35)

The aforesaid Noble man having had Harper that was blind, play to him ter supper some what late, at last he aro and commanded one of his seruants to li the Harper downe the staires: to whom t Seruingman said my Lord, the Harper blind: thou ignorant knaue, quoth Lord, he hath the more neede of light.

(36)

A young fellow wisht himselfe the ri est Cuckold in England: to whom h Mother said very angerly, you foolish cou tous boy, why dost thou desire such a wi hath not thine owne Father enough store for thee?

(37)

A Whore Rampant, made her husband Cockold Dormant, with a front Cre sant, surprised by the watch Guardan brought to the Justice Passant, with h play-fellow Pendant, after a courtsie Cou chant; the Justice told her that her offen was haynous, breaking the bones of m trimony in that adulterate manner, an

tha

hat she should consider that her husband was her Head: God sir, quoth shée, I did euer acknowledge him so; and I hope it is no such great fault in me, for I was but trimming, dressing, or ad'horning my Head.

(38)

A Man being very sickely, one said to his wife, I maruell your husband doth not weare a night-cap. Truely (quoth shé) within this fiue monthes that my husband hath bœn sicke, although his legs be shrunk, yet he hath outgrowne all his night-caps.

(39)

A Boy, whose mother was noted to bé one not ouerloden with honesty, went to séeke his Godfather, and enquiring for him, quoth one to him, who is thy Godfather: the boy reply'd his name is goodman Digland the Gardiner: Oh said the man, if he be thy Godfather he is at the next Alehouse: but I feare thou takest Gods name in vaine.

(40)

A Scholler riding from Cambridge to wards London, his horse being tyred (a lazy disease often befalling such hackneies, met a Poste on the way, who notwithstanding he did what he could to make his horse giue him place, by spur switch and bridle, yet the Poste was faine to giue him the way: to whome (in anger, he said) Thou paltry fellow, dost thou not see I am a Poste? The Scholler straight replyed, And thou ignorant fellow, dost thou not see that I ride vpon a Poste.

(41)

A Fellow hauing more drinke then wit, in a winter euening made a foolish vow to take the wall of as many as he met betwixt the Temple-bar and Charing crosse, and comming neere the Sauoy, where stood a Poste a little distance from the wall: the drunkard toke it for a man, and would haue the wall, beginning to quarrell and giue the Poste foule words: at which a man came by and asked the matter, and whome he spake to. he answered he would haue the wall of that fellow that stood so

stiffly

ſtilly there: my friend ſaid the other, that is a Poſte, you muſt giue him the way: Is it ſo, ſaid the fellow apon vpon him, why did he not blow his horne?

(42)

A Saylor being on a tired horſe, riding from Douer to London, his company prayd him to ride faſter: to whom hee anſwered, I can come no faſter, doe you not ſee that I am be calm'd?

(43)

TWo Gentlemen were ieſting, and one of them caſt away the others hat; but the other catcht his hat off, and put it on his owne head: now fie, fie, quoth the other, thou ſpoyleſt my hat: wherewith ſaid the other: Marry (ſaid he that was beareheaded) thou ſpoyleſt my hat with putting a Calues head into it.

(44)

The figure Conuerſion.

IF a Vintner doth draw mee good wine vpon money or credit then he is fitter to draw then hang: but if he draw me bad wine for good money, then he is much fitter to hang then to draw.

(45)

A Man hauing bene with a Doctor of Phyſicke to haue aduiſe about ſome griefe he had; when he came home his wife asked him what newes? Marry, ſaid hee, my Phyſitian doth counſell mee to drinke Aſſes milke euery morning faſting: Why husband, quoth the Woman, I pray you tell me, doth maſter Doctor giue ſuck?

(46)

A Braue and valiant Captaine, whom I could name, had a ſcarfe giuen him here in England, and he ſayling ouer into the Low Countries, an old Romane Catholike Lady of his acquaintance, was very importunate to beg his ſcarfe of him: the Captaine asked her what ſhee would doe with it, and ſaid, it was not fit for her wearing. She anſwered him, that if hee would giue it her, that Ieſus Chriſt ſhould weare it in the Church vpon holy dayes, meaning the Image, Madam, ſaid the Captaine, if you will bringe me word that euer his father woze ſuch a ſcarfe, then I will giue you this for him.

(47) Be-

(47)

BEtwéene the houres of twelue and one at nóone, one asked me what it was a clocke: I answered him, it was little or no thing he demanded of me what I meant by my answer? I replyed, that it being not one of the clocke, it was to be reckned or counted for nought, for that which is lesser then one, is little or nothing.

(48)

A Gentlewoman cheapned a close stoole in Pauls Church-yard, and the shopkéeper did aske her too much money for it as she thought, Why mistris, said hee, I pray you consider what a good locke and key it hath: Shée replyed, that shée had small vse for eyther locke or key, for she purposed to put nothing into it, but what shée cared not who stole out.

(49)

A Countrey woman at an Assises was to take her oath against a party; the said party entreated the Iudge that her oath might not be taken; the Iudge demanded why hee excepted against her:

my Lord (quoth he) shee is a Recusant or Romane Catholique, and they hold it no matter of conscience to sweare any thing against vs. Come hither woman, said the Iudge, I doe not thinke thou art a Recusant, I am perswaded that for forty shillings thou wilt sware the Pope is a knaue: good my Lord, said shee, the Pope is a stranger to me, but if I knew him as well as I know your Lordship, I would sweare for halfe the money.

(50)

A Cardinall kept a knauish fole for his recreation, to whom hee said, Sirrah fole, suppose that all the world were dead but thou and I, and that one of vs should be turned to a Horse, and the other of vs to an Asse, say which of these two wouldest thou chuse to bee? The fole answered, Sir, you are my master, and for that respect it is fit that your worship should chuse first, and I will be contented to take that which you leaue. Why then said the Cardinall, I would be a horse: no said the fole, let me intreat your worship to bee an Asse, for I would be an Asse to chuse of al things: why quoth the Cardinall marry said the fole,

ſole becauſe that I haue knowne many Aſſes come to bee Juſtices, but I neuer knew any horſe come to the like preferment.

(51)

A Graue diſcreet Gentleman hauing a comely wife, whoſe beauty and free behauiour did draw her honeſty into ſuſpition, by whom he had a ſonne almoſt at mans eſtate, of very diſſolute and wanton cariage: I muſe, ſaid one, that a man of ſuch ſtayd and moderate grauity ſhould haue a ſonne of ſuch a contrary and froward diſpoſition. Sir, reply'd another, the reaſon is that his pate is ſtuffed with his mothers wit, that there is no rome for any of his fathers wiſedome: beſides the lightneſſe of her heeles is gotten into her ſons braines.

(52)

A Rich Grazier dwelling 150 miles from Oxford, hauing a ſon that had ſeuen yeares beene a ſtudent there, at laſt ſent for him home, to whom he ſaid. Sonne I doe heare that you are well practiſed in the rudiments of learning, but that withall

you are addicted to an idle vaine of the poor and threadbare art of Poetry; which I charge thee to leaue and auoid, as thou tenderest my fauour, for my mind is not to haue thee liue beggerly, and dye poorely; yet I will aske thee one Poeticall question, which is; Wherefore thinkest thou that so beautifull a creature as Venus, was so besotted to match her selfe with so ill fauoured a knaue as Vulcan: In truth father, quoth the young man, I can yeeld you no reason for it, but I wonder at it; and yet I doe admire as much wherefore my mother maried with you.

(53)

A Man going with his Wife by a deepe riuer side, began to talke of Cockolds, and withall hee wisht that euery Cockold were cast into the riuer: to whom his wife replyes, husband I pray you learne to swimme.

(54)

A Man riding through a village with his dogge running by him, which dogges name was called Cockold, leaping and frisking into euery house he past by where the doore was open: whereupon the man being

being afraid his dog would bée lost, calles and whistles, here, here, Cuckold; to whom an old woman said, whome dost thou miscall? I would haue you know that no cuckold doth dwell in this house. God Woman, said the man, you mistake me, I doe call no body but my dog; Now out vpon thée thou misbeléeuing knaue, said shée, where learnedst thou that manners to call a dog by a christen bodies name.

(55)

A Lusty Miller that in his younger daies had bæne much giuen to the flesh and the deuill; so that not one pretty maid or female seruant did or could bring grist to his Mill to be grownd, but the knaue Miller would doe his best to vndermine and blow vp their chastity, and withall hée would bargain with as many as his temptations ouercame, that at his day of mariage euery one of them should giue him a Cake. In processe of time the Miller was married, and those foresaid frée hearted Wenches sent each one their Cakes, to the number of 99. His wife the bride, who also went for a maid, did muse and aske what was the meaning of so many Cakes?

The millet told her the truth of al without any dissembling: to whom his wife answered, If I had bene so wise in bargaining as you have bene in your time, the young men of my acquaintance would have sent me 100 cheeses to eate with your cakes.

This bawdy Miller in a trap was catcht,
Nor onely married, but most fitly matcht:
In this the prouerb is approued plaine,
What bread men breake, is broke to them againe.

(56)

There was a faire ship of two hundred tuns lying at the Tower wharfe at London, where a Countryman passing by most earnestly looked one the said ship, and demanded how old she was: one made answer that she was a yeare old. God Lord blesse me, said the Countryman is shee so big grone in one yeare what a greatnesse will she be by that time she comes to my age.

This mans blind ignorance I may compare
To *Aquavitæ* giuen to a *Mare*:
Let each man his owne calling then apply,
Ne sutor vltra crepidam, say I.

(57 Twelue

(57

TWelue Schollers riding together, one of them said, my masters let vs ride faster: Why quoth another, mee thinks we ride a good pace, Ile warrant it is foure mile an houre. Alas said the first, what is foure mile an houre amongst all vs.

Let not man boast of wit or learning deepe,
For ignorance may out of knowledge creepe
Amongst 12 men 4 mile an houre to ride.
He that hath wit to each his share diuide.

(58)

AN Apprentice in the market did aske the price of an hundred Oysters: his friend perswaded him not to buy them, for they were too small; too small reply'd the Prentice, there is not much losse in that for I shall haue the more to the hundred.

If vp the hill a measur'd mile it be,
Then downe the hill is another mile, I see:
A groat to pay, 4 pence will quit the cost.
What's won in t'hundred, in the shire is lost.

(59)

SIr Gentlemen riding together, were in doubt that they were out of their way,

way, wherefore they rode a flight-shot to an old shephard, one of them enquiring of him if that were the way to such a towne, and how far it was thither. Sir, quoth the Shephard, that is the right way, and you haue six miles thither. Quoth one of the Gentlemen, what a lying old knaue art thou, it cannot bee aboue foure miles: the Shephard replyde, Sir you offer like a chapman, and you shall haue it for foure miles, but Ile assure you it shall cost euery one of those Gentlemen six miles before they come thither.

Here rashnes did the Gallāts tongue oreslip,
To whō the Shephard gaue a pleasiug nip:
Thus softest fire doth make the sweetest mault, (fault.
And mild reproofes makes rashnes see his

(60)

A Man was very angry with his maid, because his eggs were boyled too hard: truely, said shee, I haue made them boyle a long houre, but the nert you haue shall boyl 2 houres but they shall be tender enough.

The boyling of this wenches eggs I find
Much like vnto a greedy mizers mind:
The eggs the more they boyle are harder still
The mizer's full, too full; yet wants his fill.

(61) Tho

(61)

TWo learned good-fellowes drinking a pipe of Tobacco, it being almost out, but he that drunke last did partly fore-see the ashes to come hot to his lippes; giuing the pipe to his friende, said Ashes to Ashes: the other taking the pipe and being of a quick apprehension, threw it out to the dunghill saying, earth to earth.

Thus wit with wit agrees like cake & cheese
Both sides are gainers, neither side doth lese
Conceit begets conceit, iest, iest doth Father
And butter salue to ground, doth somthing gather,

(62)

ONe sayd a Citizen was a man all in earnest, and in no part like a iest, because the Citizen was neuer bad, or the iest neuer good till they were both broke,

What's one mans yea, may be anothers nay,
The Sun doth soften wax, and harden clay:
Some Citizens are like to iests, for why,
They'll breake in iest, or bankrupt policy.

(63)

A Gallant, with a galloping wit, w mounted vpon a runing horſe towa a Towne named Tame, within ten mil of Oxford, and riding at full ſpéd, he m an old man, and asked him, Sirrah is th the way to Tame? yes ſir, he replyed, yo Horſe, Ile warrant you, if he were as wi as the deuill.

This is a ridle to a foole, me thinks,
And ſeemes to want an *Oedipus* or *Sphinx*
But Reader, in my booke I hold it fit,
To find you lines, your ſelfe muſt find yo
wit.

(64)

A Complementall Courtier that in hi French, Italian and Spaniſh crin ges, congées, and curteſies, would ben his body, and bow euery way like a tum bler. a Mercers ſeruant eſpying his mar moſticall Apiſhneſſe, ſaid, Oh if my ma ſter could haue bowed but halfe ſo much. am certainly perſwaded that he had neue broke.

Too much of one thing oft proues good fo nothing,

And

nd dainties in ſatiety, breeds loathing:
h'ones flattery mingled with the others
pride,
ad ſeru'd them both, both might liue
ng vnſpide.

(65)

My ſelfe gaue a booke to King Iames once in the great Chamber at Whithall his Maieſty came from the Chappell, the Duke of Richmond ſaid merrily vnto me, Taylor where did you learne the manners to giue the King a book and not kneel? By Lord, ſaid I, if it pleaſe your Grace, I doe giue now, but when I beg any thing then I will kneele.

e it to all men by theſe preſents knowne,
ſen need not kneele to giue away their own
e ſtand vpon my feet when as I giue,
nd kneele when as I beg more meanes to liue,
But ſome by this may vnderſtand
That Courtires oftner kneele then ſtand.

(66)

The trayned ſouldiers of a certaine Shire which I could name, to the nmber of 6000, as they were muſtring and

and drilling vnder their seuerall captain
a yeomans sonne being there as a raw se
dier in his corslet, his Father standing
said, I vaithit does me much good at hea
to zee how trim a vellow my zonne is
his harnesse. The young fellow hearing
his fathers commendations of him, beg
very desperately to shake his pike, and l
king exceeding grim, with a fearfull hor
rible terrible countenance, said, O vathe
chad lather nor a groat that all wee had b
one Spainard here.

One Spainard mongst 6000, pitty t'were
Better ten thousand Britains Bold were th
Led by braue Leaders, that might ma
Spaine quake. (*Dra*
Like *Vere*, or *Morgan*, *Essex*, *Blunt*,

(67)

One said that he could neuer haue
health in Cambridge, and that if
had liued their till this time, he thought
his conscience that hee had dyed 7 yea
agoe.

I will not say the man that spake so lyed,
Se'uē years ago, no doubt, he might haue d
He by his trade perhaps might be a *dyer*,
And daily dy'd to liue, and bin no lyer.

(68)

(68)

A Country fellow was much grieued that he had not gone seuen miles to a market towne to haue seene the Baboones: Why, said his wife, it is too far to goe and come in a day to see such babies, especially it is too great a iourney on foot. O quoth he, I could haue gone thither with my neighbour Hobson on foot, like a foole as I was, and I might haue rid backe vpon my neighbour Iobsons mare, like an asse as I am.

Thus in the *preter tense* a *foole* he was,
And in the *present tense* he is an *Asse*;
And in the *future*, *foole* and *asse* shall be,
That goes or rides so far such sights to see.

(69)

There was a lusty young Scholler preferred to a Benefice in the Country, and commonly on Sundays and holydaies after euening prayer he would haue a dozen bouts at cudgels with the sturdiest youths in his parish: The Bishop of the Diocesse hearing of it, sent for the parson, telling him that this beseemed not his profession and grauity, and if that he did not desist from that vnmeet kind of exercise, he would vnbenefice him; God my Lord, sayd the

the parson) I beſeech you to conceaue right ly of me, and I doubt not but my playing at cudgels will be accounted tollerable, to I doe it on purpoſe to edifie the ruder ſor of my people: How ſo, ſaid the Bishop Marry my Lord (quoth the Parſon) what ſoeuer I doe teach them at morning an euening prayer, I doe beat ſoundly int their heads at cudgels afterward, for the better remembrance.

I wiſh that all the fencers in our nation,
Were onely of this *Parſons* congregation:
That he his life and doctrine ſhould expla
By beating them, whilſt they beat him a
gaine.

(70)

A Judge vpon the Bench did aſke an ol man how old he was: My Lord, ſai he, I am eight and foureſcore: And wh not foureſcore and eight, ſaid the Judge the other replyde, becauſe I was eight be fore I was foureſcore.

Eight's before eighty, all men may deſcry,
Yet we name eighty firſt, contrarily:

Pu

Pull of my *Boots* and *Spures*, I you beſeech,
when *Spures* & *Boots* is rather proper ſpeech.

(71)

A Fellow made his boaſt that hée rode 220 miles with one heeſe and neuer drew bit: that may be (quoth another) perhaps you rid him with a halter.

The prouerb ſaies, he that will *ſwear* will *lie*,
He that will *lye* will *ſteale* by conſequency:
Swearers are *lyers*, lyars moſt are theeues,
Or God helpe *Iaylors*, & true *Vnderſhrieues*.

(72)

One ſaw a decayed Gentleman in a very thread bare cloake, ſayd to him, Sir you haue a very watchfull cloake on: Why ſaid the poore Gentleman? the other anſwered, I doe not thinke it had a good nap this ſeuen yeares: the Genltleman replyed, and truely ſir me thinkes you want a nap as well as my cloke, for you talke idlely for want of ſléepe.

The prodigall at Pouerty doth ſcoffe,
Though from his backe the *begger's* not farre off.
Here flout with flout, and bob with bob is quitted,
And proud vainglorious folly finely fitted

(73)

A Diligent and learned Preacher on a Sunday in the afternoone was preaching, whilst most of the zealous Vestrymen, (for their meaner edification) were fast asleepe in their pues: in the meane space a young childe cryed somewhat aloud at the lower end of the Church, which the Preacher hearing called to the Nurse, and said, Nurse, I pray thee still thy childe, or else it may chance to awaken some of the best men in our parish.

Men sleepe at Sermons, sure their braines are adle, (cradle;
Sly Satan lulls them, and doth rocke the
When men thus do no ill, tis vnderstood,
The deuill hinders them from doing good.

(74)

A Chorister or singing man at seruice in a Cathedrall Church, was a sleepe when all his fellowes were singing, which the Deane espying, sent a boy to him to waken him, and asked him why he did not sing? he being suddenly awaked, prayed the boy to thanke master Deane for his kinde remembrance, and to tell him, that he was as merry as those that did sing.

They

They ſay he's wiſe that can himſelfe keepe warme,
And that the man that ſleepes well thinkes no harme:
He ſung not, yet was in a merry mood,
Like Iohn Indifferent, did not harme nor good.

(75)

A kind of clownish gentleman had halfe a Brawne ſent him against Christmas, he very liberally gaue the Seruing man halfe a shilling that brought it: the Seruingman gaue the Porter that carried it eight pence before the Gentlemans face. Sirrah, ſaid he, are you ſo prodigall to reward the Porter with eight pence, when I giue you but ſix pence; thou beareſt the minde of a prodigall Gallant, although by thy ſute thou ſeemeſt a lubberly clowne: Good ſir, ſaid the fellow, I confeſſe I haue a very clownish lubberly paire of feete, but yet I am perſwaded that a payre of your worſhips ſhoes would fit them well.

Heres *Bore* & *Brawne* together are wel met,
He knew that giuing was no way to get,
The world gets ſomewhat by the *Prodigall*,
When as the *Mizer* gets the diuell and all.

(76)

A Griping extortioner that had bene a maker of beggers for the space of forty yeares, and by raising rents and oppression, had vndone many families, saies on a time in anger to a poore fellow that had stolne a sheepe of his, Ah villiane, dareſt thou rob me, I vow and sweare there is not so damned a rogue in the world as thou: to whom the fellow answered, I beseech your good worship remember your selfe, and be good to mee for Gods sake, and for your owne sake.

This Rascals eye is with a beame so blind,
That in the poore mans he a moat can find:
The *wolfe* himself, a temperate feeder deems
And euery man too much himselfe esteems.

(77)

A Seruingman and his mistris was landing at the Whitefryars stayers, the stayers being very bad, a waterman offered to helpe the woman, saying, Giue me your hand Gentlewoman Ile help you: to whom her man replyed, you sawcy fellow place your words right, my mistris is no gentlewoman, she is a Lady.

All

All is not gold(they ſay)that gliſters bright
Snow is not ſuger,though it looke as white:
And tis approued to be true and common,
That euery Lady's not a Gentlewoman.

(78)

A Seruingman going in haſt in London, (minding his buſineſſe more then his way) a Gallant iuſtled him from the wall almoſt into the kennell: the fellow turned about, and asked the Gentleman why hee did iuſtle him ſo? the Gentleman ſaid, Becauſe he would not giue the wall to a ſawcy knaue. The Seruingman replyed, your worſhip is not of my minde for I will.
Here Pride that takes Humility in ſnuffe,
Is well encountred with a counterbuffe:
One would not giue the wall vnto a knaue,
The other would,and him the wall he gaue.

(79)

A Iuſtice of the Peace was very angry with a country yeoman becauſe hee came not to him at his firſt ſending for him; and after he had bountifully beſtowed two or three dozen of knaues vpon him, he ſaid to him; Sirrah, I will make you know that the proudeſt ſaucy knaue that dwels

vnder my command ſhall come before mee when I ſend for him. I beſeech your worſhip ſaid the man, to pardon me, for I was afraid: afraid of what ſaid the Juſtice? of your worſhip anſwered the fellow. Of mée ſaid the Juſtice? why waſt thou afraid of me? Becauſe your worſhip lokes ſo like a Lyon, ſaid the man: a Lyon quoth the Juſtice: when didſt thou ſée a Lyon? may it pleaſe your worſhip (the fellow replyde) I ſaw a Butcher bring one but yeſterday to Colebrooke market, with a white face, and his foure legs bound.

This fellow was a knaue, or foole, or both,
Or elſe his wit was of but ſlender growth:
He gaue the whiteface'd *Calfe* the Lyons ſtile
The Juſtice was a proper man the while.

(80)

DIuers Gentlemen being merry together, at laſt one of their acquaintance came to them (whoſe name was Sampſon) A ha, ſaid one of them, now we may be ſecurely merry, no Sergant or Bailiffe dare touch vs, for if a thouſand Philiſtims come, here is Sampſon, who is able to brain them all: to whom Sampſon replyde. Sir I may boldly

boldly venture against so many as you speake of, prouided that you will lend mee one of your law-bones.

(81)

TWo Playsterers being at worke for me at my house in Southwarke, did many times patch and dawbe out part of their daies labour with prating, which I being digging in my garden did ouerheare that their chat was of their wiues, and how that if I were able (quoth one) my wife should ride in pompe through London as I saw a Countesse ride yesterday: why quoth the other, how did she ride I pray? Marry said he, in state, in her Horslitter. O base, quoth the other, Horslitter; I protest as poore a man as I am, I would haue allowed my wife a threepeny trusse of clean straw.

(82)

SIr Edward Dyer came to the towne on some businesse iust at the time as the Gate was newly shut, and the Warders going away with the keys, hee looking through the gate called to one of them, saying, Hoe fellow, I pray thee open the gate

and let me in: None of your fellow Sir but a poore knaue: Why then said Sir Edward, I pray thée poore knaue let me in: nay no knaue neither, quoth the Warder. Why then said the knight, he was a knaue that told me so.

(83)

One met his friend in the ſtréete, and told him he was very ſory to ſée him looke ſo ill, asking him what he ailed: hee replyed, that he was now well amended, but hee had beene lately ſicke of the Por: What por, the ſmall por, said his friend? Nay, quoth the other, my minde was not ſo baſe; for I had the bigeſt por that I could get for my money.

(84)

A honeſt Hoſtelle of mine at Oxford roſted an old ſhoulder of a Ram, which in the eating was as tough as a Bucke Jerkin: I did aske her what the reaſon was that the mutton was ſo tough: Shee ſaid ſhe knew not, except the Butcher deceiued her in the age of it, and ſhe would tell him on both ſides of his eares, like a knaue as he

he was: Nay, quoth I, I thinke there is another fault in it which will excuse the Butcher, for perhaps you roasted it with old wood: in troth quoth the hostesse it is like enough, and my husband never doth otherwayes, but buy old stumps and knots which makes all the meat we either roast or boyle, so exceeding tough that no body can eate it.

(85)

ONe hearing a clocke strike three when he thought it was not two, said, this Clocke is like an hypocriticall Puritane, for though he will not sweare, yet hee will lye abhominably.

(86)

DIcke Tarleton said that hee could compare Queene Elizabeth to nothing more fitly then to a Sculler, for said hee, neither the Queene nor the Sculler hath a fellow.

(87)

TWo obstinate rich fellowes in Law (that had each of them more money then wit) by chance one of them comming out of Westminster Hall, met with his aduersaries wife, to whom he said, in troth good woman I do much pitty your case, in that it is your hard fortune that such a foole as your husband should haue so discreet and modest a wife. The woman repl'yde, In truth Sir I do grieue more, that so honest a wife as you haue, should haue such a wrangling knaue to her husband.

(88)

A Poore labouring man was married & matched to a creature that so much vsed to scold waking, that she had much ado to refraine it sleeping, so that the poore man was so batterfang'd and belabour'd with tongue mettle, that hee was weary of his life: at last foure or fiue woman that were his neighbours (pittying his case) came in his absence to his house to admonish and counsell his wife to a quiet behauiour towards her husband; telling her that shee was a shame to all good woman, in her bad

vsage

vsage of so honest a painefull man: the woman replyed to her neighbours, that shee thought her husband did not loue her which was partly the cause that shee was so froward towards him; why (said an old woman) I will shew thee how thou shalt proue that he loues thee dearely; doe thou counterfeit thy selfe dead, and lye vnder the table, and one of vs will fetch thy husband, and he shall finde vs heauy and grieuing for thee? by which meanes thou shalt perceiue by his lamentation for thee, how much he loues thee: this counsell was allowed and effected; when the poore man came home, he hearing the matter (being much oppresst with griefe) ranne vnder the table bemoning the happy losse of his most kinde veration, and making as though hee would kisse her, with a most louing embrace, to make all sure, hee brake her necke. The neighbors pittying the mans extream passion, in compassion told him that his wife was not dead, and that all this was done but to make a tryall of his loue towards her: whereupon they called her by her name, bidding her to rise, and that shee had foiled it enough with her husband: but for all their calling, shee lay still, which made

made one of the women to shake and iogg her, at which the woman cryed, alas shee is dead indeed: why this it is quoth her husband to dissemble and counterfeit with God and the world.

(90)

A Planter of a Colledge in Oxford possessing some crums of Logicke and chippings of Sophistrie, making distribution of bread at the Schollers table, one of the Schollers, complained unto him that the breads were dow baked. Why quoth he, so it should be, what else is the definition of bread, but dough baked?

(91)

A Miserable fellow in the country, did once a yeare use to invite his neighbours to dinner, and as they were one time sate, hee bad them welcome, saying, that there was a surloyne of beefe, that the ore it came from cost 20 pound, and that there was a Capon that hee paid 2 shillings 6 pence for in the market: at which a country yeoman sitting against the Capon, fell to

and cut off a leg of it, (the reſt of the gueſts being not yet paſt their roaſt bæke) to whom the man of the houſe ſaid, My friend, I pray thée eate ſome of this ſame furloyne: Oh ſir, God forbid, quoth the fellow, I am but a poore man, an ore of 20 pound price is too deare meat, a Capon of halfe a crowne will ſerue my turne well enough, I thanke you.

(92)

A Rich man told his nephew, that he had read a booke called Lucius Apuleius, of the Golden aſſe, and that hee found there how Apuleius after he had beene an aſſe many yeares, by eating of Roſes he did recouer his manly ſhape againe, and was no more an aſſe: the young man replyed to his vncle, Sir, if I were worthy to aduiſe you, I would giue you counſell to eate a ſallad of Roſes once a weeke your ſelfe.

(93)

A Fellow hauing béene marryed but fiue weekes, perceiued his wife to be great with childe, wherefore ſhe deſired him to buy a cradle: ſhortly after hee went to a

Faire

Faire and bought ten cradles, and being demaunded why he bought so many, he answered, that his wife would haue vse for them all in one yeare.

(94)

A Gentleman vntrust and vnbuttoned in a cold winter morning, a friend of his told him that it was not for his health to go so open in the raw weather, and that he mused it did not kill him to goe so oft vntrust: to whom the other replyed. Sir, you are of the mind of my Silkeman, Mercer, or Taylor, for they find fault as you do because I go so much on trust, but it is a fault I haue naturally from my parents and kindred, and my creditors tell me that I do imitate my betters.

(95)

A Justice of the peace committed a fellow to prison, and commanded him away three or foure times, but still the fellow entreated him. Sirrah (said the Justice) must I bid you bee gone so many times, and will you not go? The fellow answered, Sir, if your worship had bidden me to dinner or supper, I should in my poore man-

manners not to haue taken your offer vnder two or three biddings, therefore I pray you blame mee not if I take for foure biddings to prison.

(96)

A Great man kept a miserable house, so that his seruants did alwayes rise from the table with empty panches, though cleane licked platters: truely said one of his men, I thinke my Lord will worke miracles shortly, for though hee practise not to raise the dead, or dispossesse the diuell; yet he goes about to feed his great family with almost nothing.

(97)

One said that Bias the Philosopher was the first Bowler; and that euer since the most part of Bowles doe in memory of their originall, weare his badge of remembrance, and very autifully hold Bias. Now to tell you, this Bias was one of the seuen Sages or wise men of Greece. My authors to proue him the inuenter of Bowling, are Shamrooke, a famous Scithian Gimnosophist in his 9 booke of Rubbing and Running; of which opinion Balductus the Theban Orator seemes to bee

in

in his third treatise of court performances the likliest coniecture is, that it was deuised as an embleme to figure out the worlds folly and inconstancy; for though a childe will ride a sticke or staffe with an imagination that hee is on horsebacke; or make pyes of dirt, or houses of cards, fæd with 2 spoones, and cry for three peeces of bread and butter, which childish actions are ridiculous to a man: yet this wise game of Bowling doth make the Fathers surpasse their children in apish toyes and most delicate dogtrickes. As first for the postures, 1 handle your Bowle: 2 aduance your Bowle: 3 charge your Bowle: 4 aym your Bowle: 5 discharge your Bowle: 6 plye your Bowle: in which last posture of plying your Bowle, you shall perceiue many varieties and diuisions, as wringing of the necke, lifting vp of the shoulders, clapping of the hands, lying downe of one side, running after the Bowle, making long dutifull scrapes and legs, (sometimes bareheaded) entreating him to flee flee flee (with por an't when tis too short:) and though the bowler be a Gentleman, yet there hee may meete with attendant rookes, that sometimes will be his betters fiue to foure,

or

or two to one. I doe not know any thing fitter to be compared to bowling then woing, or louers, for if they doe not see one another in two dayes they will say, Good Lord it is seuen yeares since wee saw each other, for Louers do thinke that in absence time sleepeth, and in their presence that hée is in a wild gallop: So a Bowler, although the alley or marke be but thirty or forty paces, yet sometimes I haue heard the Bowler cry rub rub rub, and sweare and lye that hée was gone an hundred miles, when the bowle hath béene short of the blocke two yards, or that hee was too short a thousand foot, when he is vpon the head of the Jacke, or 10 or 12 foot beyond. In a word, there are many more seuerall postures at bowles, then there are ridiculous idle tales or iests in my booke. Yet are the bowlers very weake stomackt, for they are euer casting sometimes they giue the stab, at the alley head, but God be thanked no blood shed, and sometimes they bestow a pippin one vpon the other, but no good aple Ile assure you. The marke which they ayme at hath sundry names and epithites, as a Block, a Jack, and a Mistris: a Block, because of his birth and breeding, shewing

by his mettle of what house he came ; a Jacke, because he being smoothed and gotten into some handsome shape, forgets the house he came of, suffering his betters to giue him the often salute whilst hee like Jacke sauce neither knowes himselfe, nor will know his superiors. But I hold a mistresse to be the fittest name for it, for there are some that are commonly tearmed mistresses, which are not much better then mine aunts : and a mistris is oftentimes a marke for euery knaue to haue a fling at, euery one striues to come so neare her that he would kisse her : and yet some are short, some wide, and some ouer, and who so doth kisse, it may perhaps sweeten his lips, but I assure him it shall neuer fill his belly, but rather empty his purse. So much for bowling: that I feare me I haue bowled beyond the marke.

(98)

A Minister riding into the west parts of England, happened to stay at a village on a Sunday, where hee offered kindly to bestow a sermon vpon them : which the Constable hearing, did aske the Minister if he were licenced to preach, yes quoth hee that

that I am, and with that hée drew out of a boy his Licence, which was in Latine, truly said the Constable I vnderstand no Latine, yet I pray you let me sée it, I perhaps shall picke out here and there a word: No good sir, quoth the Minister, I will haue no words pickt out of it, for spoyling my Licence.

(99)

A Clinch.

A Country man being demanded how such a Riuer was called, that ranne through their Country: he answered that they neuer had néd to call the Riuer, for it alwayes came without calling.

(100)

A Fellow hauing his booke at the Sessions, was burnt in the hand, and was commanded to say God saue the King: the King, said he, God saue my Grandam, that tought me to reade, I am sure I had bin hanged else.

A toy to mocke an Ape.

IN Quéne Elizabeths dayes there was a fellow that woze a bzooch in his hat, like a tooth dzawer, with a Rose and Crowne and two letters: this fellow had a warant from the Lord Chamberlaine at that time to trauell with an exceeding braue Ape which he had; whereby he got his liuing from time to time at markets and fayzes: his Ape did alwayes ride vpon a mastife dog and a man with a dzum to attend him. It happened that these foure trauellers came to a towne called Looe in Cornwall, where the Inne being taken, the dzum went about to signifie to the people that at such an Inne was an Ape of singular vertue and quality, if they pleased to bestow their time and money to see him: now the townsmen being honest laboring Fishers, and other painfull functions, had no leasure to waste either time oz coyne in Ape-trickes so that no audience came to the Inne, to the great griefe of Iack-an Apes his master: who collecting his wits together, resolued to aduenture to put a tricke vpon the town, whatsoeuer came of it; whereupon he toke

pen,

pen, inke, and paper, and wrote a warrant to the Mayor of the towne, as followeth.

These are to will and require you, and euery of you, with your wiues and families, that vpon the sight hereof you make your personall appearance before the Queenes Ape, for it is an Ape of ranke and quality, who is to be practised through her Maiesties dominions, that by his long experience amongst her louing subiects, hee may be the better enabled to doe her Maiesty seruice hereafter; and hereof fayle you not, as you will answer the contrary. &c.

This Warrant being brought to the Mayor, he sent for a shoomaker at the furthest end of the towne to reade it: which when he heard, he sent for all his brethren, who went with him to the towne Hall to consult vpon this waighty busines, wher after they had sate a quarter of an houre, no man saying any thing, nor any man knowing what to say: at last a youug man that neuer had borne any office, said, Gentlemen, if I were fit to speake, I think (without offence, vnder correction of the Worshipfull) that I should soone decide this busines; to whom the Mayor sayd, I pray good neighbour speake, for though you neuer did

beare any office here, yet you may speake as wisely as some of vs. Then sir, said the young man, my opinon is that this Apecarier is a gybing scoffing knaue, and one that doth purpose to make this towne a iesting mocking stocke through the whole Kingdome: for was it euer knowne that a fellow should be so impudent audatious as to send a Warrant without either name or date to a Mayor of a town, to the Quænes Leutenant, and that he with his brethren, their wiues and families, should be all commanded to come before a lack-an apes? My counsell is that you take him and his Ape, with his man, and his dog, and whip the whole messe or murrinall of them out of the towne, which I thinke will bee much for your credit if you doe.

At which words a graue man of the towne being much moued, said My friend you haue spoken little better then treason, for it is the Quænes Ape, and therefore beware what you say; you say true, said master Mayor, I muse who bade that sauty fellow come into our company, I pray thee my friend depart, I thinke you long to haue vs all hanged. So in briefe hee was put out of the doores, for they were no com-

pany

pany for him. Well now what is to bée done in this matter? Marry (said another Senior) we sée by the Brooch in the mans hat that he is the Quénes man, and who knowes what power a knaue may haue in the Court to doe poore men wrong in the Country, let vs goe and sée the Ape, it is but 2 pence a péece, and no doubt but it will be well taken, and if it come to the Quéens eare, shée will thinke vs kind people that would shew so much duty to her Ape, what may she thinke we would do to her Bares if they came hether? besides it is aboue 200 miles to London, and if we should be complained on & fetched vp with Pursiuants, whereas now euery man may escape for his 2 pence, Ile warrant it would cost vs 10 groates a peece at the least. This counsell passed currant, and all the whole droues of the townsmen, with wiues and children, went to see the Ape, who was sitting on a table with a chain about his neck, to whom master Mayor (because it was the Quéens Ape) put off his hat, & made a leg, but lack let him passe vnregarded. But mistris Mayoresse coming next in her clean linnen held her hands before her belly, and like a wamã of good bréeding made a low curtsie,

whilſt Iacke (ſtill Court-like) although reſpected not the man, yet to expreſſe his coueteſie to his wife hee put forth his paw towards her, and made a mouth which the woman perceiuing, ſaid, Husband I doe thinke in my conſcience that the Queenes Ape doth mocke me: whereat Iacke made another mouth at her, which maſter mayor eſpying, was very angry, ſaying, Sirrah, thou Ape, I do ſée thy ſaucineſſe, and if the reſt of the courtiers haue no more manners then thou haſt, then they haue all bin better fed then taught: and I will make thée know before thou goeſt from hence that this woman is my wife, an ancient woman, and a widwife, and one that may bee thy mother for age.

In this rage maſter Mayor went to the Inne dore, where Iacke-an-apes tutor was gathering of money, to whom he ſaid, Sir, doe you allow your Ape to abuſe my wife? No ſir, quoth the other not by any meanes: truly, ſaid the Mayor, there is witneſſe enough within that haue ſéene him make mops and mowes at her, as if ſhe were not worthy to wipe his ſhoes, and I will not ſo put it by. Iacks tutor replyed, Sir, I will preſently giue him condigne punishment:

ment: and straight hee toke his Flanders blade, his Whipe, and holding his Ape by the chaine, he gaue him halfe a dozen terks, which made his teth daunce in his head like so many Virginall Jackes: Which master Mayor perceiuing, ran to him, and held his hands saying, Enough enough, good sir, you haue done like a Gentleman, let me entreat you not to giue correction in your wrath: and I pray you and your Ape after the Play is done, to come to my house and sup with me and my wife.

(102)

This Tale I writ on purpose to sticke in the teeth of my proud squeamish nice criticall Reader.

A Countryman brought his wines water to a Physitian, saying, God morrow to your Worship master Confusion; Physition thou wouldest say, said the other: truly, said the fellow, I am no Scholler, but altogether vnrude, and very ingrum, & I haue heare my wiues water in a potle pot, beseeching your mastership to cast it: So the Physitian toke the water, which hauing put into an vrinall and viewed it, he said, My friend, thy wife is very weak:

truly,

truely, quoth he I thinke shee bee in a pre-
sumption: a consumption thou wouldst say,
said the Physition: I doe not understand
your allegant speeches. Well, quoth the
Doctor, doth thy wife keepe her bed? No,
truly Sir, said he, shee sold her bed a fortnight
since: verily quoth the Doctor shee is very
costiue: Costly said the man, your Wor-
ship sayes true, for I haue spent all that I
haue vpon her almost. Said the Doctor, I
doe not say costly but costiue: and I pray
thee tell me, is she lose or bound? Indeed
Sir, said the man, she is bound to me during
her life, and I am bound to her: yea but I
pray thee, said the Doctor, tell me in plaine
termes how she goes to stole? truly, said
the fellow, in plaine tearmes she goes to
stole very strangely, for in the morning it
is so hard that your Worship can scarce
bite it with your teeth, and at night it is so
thin that you might eat it with a spoone.

(103)

GOod fellowes hauing well washed their wits in wine at a tauerne, one of them was very importunate to be gone; to whom another of them said, I pray thee be patient, talke no more of going, for if thou wilt sit still but a little, thou shalt find that we shall all be gone, though wee stay here.

(104)

AN Ideot who dweit with a rich vncle he had, was by a Courtier begged for a foole, which the foole perceiuing ran home to his vncles Parlour which was fairly hung with Tapestry hangings, and in euery one of the hangings was the figure of a foole wrought: So the Foole watching his opportunity that no body was in the parlour, hée tooke a knife and cut the fooles pictures out of euery hanging and went and hid them in a hay-mow, which when his vncle came in and saw, he was very angry, demanding who had spoiled his hangings? Ah nunkle, said the Ideot, I did cut out all the fooles, for there is a great man at Court that hath begged mée for a foole, and he would haue all the

the rich ſoles he can heare of, therefore di
I cut them all out of your hangings, and
haue hid them where I thinke he will no
finde them in haſt.

(105)

A Fellow being ſcouled at by his Wife
would make her beleiue hee would
drowne himſelfe: and as he went toward
the riuer his Wife followed him deſiring
him to forbeare, or at the laſt to let her
ſpeake with him; well, quoth he, ſpeak
briefly, For I am in haſt; then husband
ſaid ſhe, ſeeing you will drowne your ſelf
let me intreat you to take my counſell,
which is, that you caſt your ſelfe into thi
ſhallow place here, for it will grieue my
heart to ſee how long you will be a dying
but goe with me a little way. and I will
ſhew you a deepe place, where you ſhall be
diſpatched preſently.

(106)

A Woman in Scotland lay dying, to
whom her husband ſaid, Wife now
thou art about to leaue me alone, I pray
thee tell me with whom ſhall I marry.

She

She replyed, are you in hast to marry before the breath be out of my body, then marrie the deuils dam: not so wise said he, I haue had his daughter already, and if I should match with his mother too, then I should be guiltie of incest.

(10)

THere was a Gentleman that was of a very hasty disposion, so that he would fret, and chase almost at all things, and be seldome pleased with any thing and withall was a great Tobaccotaker: and as one time he beat and kick'd his man, the fellow ran from him, and told one of his fellowes that he thought his master was transformed into Brawne, for he was all Choller, and that he though the reason of his kicking was, because he dranke Colts-foot among his Tobacco.

(108)

A Doctor of Physick in Italy asked a watherman if he might goe well by water ouer the Riuer Po, the fellow told him yea: but the Doctor when he came to the water side and saw it was a little rough weather,

was

was very angry, and said, you watermen are the veriest knaues in the world for to gaine sixpence you care not to cast a man away: to whom the Waterman replyed, Sir it appeares we are men of a cheaper function and better conscience then you for you sometimes will not cast a man away vnder 40, 50, or 100 crownes.

(109)

One borrowed a cloak of a gentleman, and met one that knew him who said I thinke I know that cloake: it may be so, said the other, I borrowed it of such a gentleman: the other told him that it was too short: yea but quoth he that had the cloake, I will haue it long enough before I bring it home againe.

(110)

A Poore womans husband was to bee hanged at the towne of Lancaster and on the execution day shee entreated the Shriue to bee good to her and stand her friend: the Shriue said that hee could doe her no hurt, for her husband was condemned and iudged by the law. and therefore he must suffer. Ah good master Shriue said

said the woman, it is not his life that I aske, but because I haue farre home, and my mare is old and sicke, therefore I would entreat you to doe me the fauour to let my husband be hanged first.

(111)

One came into a Colledge in an Vniuersity, and asked how many Fellowes belonged to the house: another replyed, that there were more good fellowes then good Schollers two to one.

(112)

A Fellow being drunke was brought before a Justice, who committed him to prison: and the next day when he was to be discharged he was to come to the Justice againe, who said to him, Sirrah you were not drunke the last night: your Worship saies true, said the fellow: Yea but you were drunke, said the Justice, and you did abuse me, and said I was a wise Justice: the fellow replyed, If I said so I thinke I was drunke indeed, and I cry your Worships mercy, for I will neuer doe you that wrong when I am sober.

(113) A

(113)

A Spaniard having but one eye chanced to meet a man in the field, wher drawing both their Rapiers, the other man with an infortunate thrust strucke out the other eye of the Spaniards, whereat the blind man suddenly cast downe his Rapier saying Buenas noches: which in the Spanish tongue is goodnight

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